

REMARKSStatus of the claims

Claims 1-5, 31-33, 36-39 and 43 are now withdrawn. Claims 10-24, 28, 30, and 40-42 are now pending.

REMARKS

In an Office Action mailed on November 16, 2005, the Examiner restricted Applicants' claims as drawn to independent and distinct inventions. Specifically, the Examiner restricted the claims into two groups, namely Group I consisting of claims 1-5, 31-33, 36-39, and 43, and Group II consisting of claims 10-24, 28, 30, and 40-42. In response, Applicants hereby formally elect Group II without traverse.

Applicants have withdrawn non-elected claims 1-5, 31-33, 36-39, and 43 without prejudice and reserve the right to prosecute non-elected claims in a later divisional application. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments, or otherwise feels it would be advantageous, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (713) 238-8043.

Respectfully submitted,



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